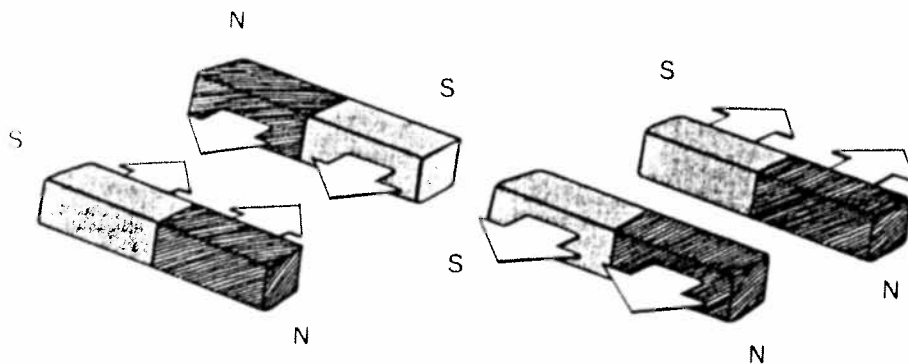


What Is Magnetism?





Different poles attract, and the same poles repel.

What keeps a refrigerator door closed? Most refrigerator doors are kept closed by **magnetism**. Magnetism is a pulling force that certain metals have. These metals, called **magnets**, attract and repel other pieces of metal. Attract means that two objects pull toward each other. Repel means that two objects push away from each other.

All magnets have two ends called **poles**. Each magnet has a north pole and a south pole. The north pole of one magnet attracts the south pole of another magnet. But the north pole of one magnet repels the north pole of another magnet. Two south poles also repel each other.

In some ways, Earth acts like a magnet with two poles. You can tell by using a magnetic compass. A magnetic compass is an instrument with a magnetized needle. One end of the needle always points to the magnetic north pole of Earth. Sailors use compasses to tell what direction they are going.

Magnets do not have to touch a piece of metal to attract it. There is an attracting area around every magnet called the **magnetic field**. When a piece of metal comes near a magnet, it is attracted by the magnetic field. The attraction gets stronger as the metal gets closer to the magnet.

A Draw  to show when two magnetic poles attract. Draw  to show when two magnetic poles repel.

1. north pole _____ south pole
2. south pole _____ south pole
3. south pole _____ north pole
4. north pole _____ north pole

B Use the words below to complete the sentences.

Attract	Magnetism	Repel
compass	metal	stronger
magnetic field	poles	weaker

1. _____ is a pulling force that certain metals have.
2. Magnets attract and repel other pieces of _____.
3. _____ means that two objects push away from each other.
4. _____ means that two objects pull toward each other.
5. All magnets have two ends called _____.
6. You can tell that Earth acts like a magnet by using a magnetic _____.
7. There is an attracting area around magnets called the _____.
8. The attraction of a piece of metal gets _____ as the metal gets closer to the magnet.

C Answer the question.

What is magnetism? _____
